

Docket Number PA-085.10975-US
Appl. No. 10/771,587
Reply to Office action of July 7, 2005

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Remarks / Arguments

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-13 and indication of the allowability of claims 18 and 19 if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 on the basis of U.S. Patent No. 3,610,778 to Suter. While Suter may disclose a blade baffle with a groove 20 in one of the lugs 18 thereof, the Suter damper is not a "stick damper" of the type disclosed and claimed by Applicants which is received within a turbomachinery blade cooling passage to damp blade vibration. Rather, the Suter baffle is a generally U-shaped apparatus disposed outside of, and between two adjacent rotor blades at the root portions thereof and does not damp blade vibrations, but rather reduces the blades' natural frequency (see Suter specification - column 1, lines 39-41).

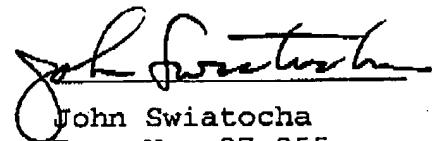
Claim 14 and claims 15-17 which are dependent thereon have been amended to distinguish Applicants stick damper over the Suter baffle by reciting that the damper is adapted to be received within a cooling channel and includes grooves which accommodate a flow of coolant therewithin.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14-17 as amended, patentably distinguish over the Suter reference, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted



John Swiatocha
Reg. No. 27,955

Pratt & Whitney
400 Main Street
Mail Stop 132-13
East Hartford CT 06108
Phone: 860-565-5106
Fax: 860-565-9276